



February 19, 2015

Department of Fish & Wildlife & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Subject: 2015-2017 hunting season package

Ref: Public Comments local business in the Northeast Region related to Deer Hunting

To the Wash State Department of Wildlife & Wildlife Commission:

We have lived and managed one of the biggest hotels "Comfort Inn" in the town of Colville Washington for 18 years. Our kids grew up here and went to school here and our family has enjoyed the great outdoors just right outside the backdoor of Colville. We became aware of this hunting comment period from a hunter who stayed here many years to deer & turkey hunt. He made us aware of a particular regulation that only allows hunters to shoot white tail bucks that have 4 points and better. He explained how hard this is for the average hunter to see clearly this many points on one side, and he also made us aware that three years ago a hunter could shoot any white tail buck and did not have to count horns. We are not hunters per say in this area but have done a little fishing on Lake Roosevelt from time to time. The hunter also explained to us that the law was put in to protect mature deer for breeding purposes, but that prior to that time harvest rates for 4pt and better were excellent for this area compared to other parts of the state. He also explained that regulations going on for some time now, not allowing hunting bucks during breeding time were put in just for that reason for mature deer protection. We have noticed these past 3 years a dramatic decline of hunters using our hotel, of course we did not know of this law until this hunter explained it to us. We thought it was just the economy causing the decline of hunters. Now we feel this 4 point law restriction is a major contributor of our business decline and would wish the Department of Wildlife to pass rules going back to any buck, then perhaps hunting families and friends will return to our hotel business as well as other businesses in town & our local area.

Thank you for allowing us to comment and thank you for managing the Wildlife resource.

Sincerely,

Perry & Mary Anderson, Managing Members.
Comfort Inn Colville
Colville, WA

166 NE Canning Drive
Colville, WA 99114

Phone: 509.684.2010 Fax: 509.684.1918

comfortinn@colville.com

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